

REMARKS

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination with this Response and have added new Claims 35-43 in this paper. Presently, Claims 18-43 are pending.

SPECIFICATION

Applicants have amended the title of the patent application in accordance with the Examiner's instruction.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 18-23 and 25-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Centers et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,471,486) in view of Culp, III et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,975,854), and the Applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants note at the outset that the Examiner has made several assumptions regarding the disclosure of the prior art. Without these assumptions, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

First, the Examiner states that it "is obvious that this computer initializes the configuration of the compressor" when discussing the electronic control system (1004) of Centers et al., particularly column 25, line 42 to column 26, line 27. Applicants respectfully disagree that it is obvious that the Centers et al. electronic control system would initialize configuration of the compressor. Centers et al. does not state that such initialization occurs and it is inappropriate for the Examiner to assume that the Centers et al. electronic control system performs such initialization without teaching or

suggestion by the Centers et al. reference. Because Centers et al. does not teach or suggest that the computer initializes the configuration of the compressor, the reference fails to disclose Applicants' invention.

Second, the Examiner admits that the Centers et al. device differs from the claimed invention and that there is no explicit teaching of a control block/control system including a pluggable gateway. To meet this element of Applicants' claimed invention, the Examiner assumes that the data interface of Centers et al. constitutes a gateway board. Centers et al. fails to disclose a gateway board, however, nor explain that the data interface functions like a gateway board. The Examiner cannot use Centers et al. to meet this feature of Applicants' invention without a teaching or suggestion in the prior art reference. Thus, Centers et al. fails to teach Applicants' claimed invention.

Third, the Examiner relies on Applicants' description of the invention discussing incorporation of a Motorola Serial Peripheral Interface to accomplish a network connection at page 13, line 13 of the application as filed for disclosure of a detachable or pluggable interface on an electronic control device. The Examiner is not permitted to use the Applicants' description of their invention against him to make the obviousness rejection, particularly where Applicants have not characterized the description as known prior art. Such an argument is impermissible hindsight because the Examiner's argument only uses knowledge gleaned from Applicants' disclosure of their invention. See MPEP §2145(x)(A). The gateway feature of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by Centers et al., or any other prior art reference cited by the Examiner, but instead is taught by Applicants.

Further, the disclosure of the Motorola Serial Peripheral Interface in Applicants' specification is not an admission of prior art. In fact, Applicants' incorporation of a detachable or pluggable interface on the electronic control device is a novel and non-obvious feature of the claimed compressor, and the citation of the Motorola Serial Peripheral Interface in Applicants' description was an example of such a device that would allow Applicants to include the feature on the inventive compressor assembly. The Examiner is not permitted to use Applicants' disclosure as a roadmap, let alone use features described in the detailed description of the invention as prior art, because the Examiner's hindsight reconstruction of the prior art is based on Applicants' own teachings.

Finally, while the Examiner admits that Centers et al. fails to teach a control block mounted on the compressor, the Examiner maintains that the exact location of these control blocks is not significant. The Examiner states that, "There is no significant difference between placing all the control blocks into one control room, and placing the control blocks on the compressors." Applicants strongly disagree for exactly the reasons the Examiner states that it would be advantageous, and therefore obvious in the opinion of the Examiner: Integration of the design of the compressor reduces control block to the compressor wiring, i.e., network setup, and simplifies control block to compressor identification. These design objectives are met by Applicants' invention, but not by the prior art. Thus, it appears even the Examiner would agree that the exact location of the control blocks does matter, and there is significance to placing the control blocks in one control room versus placing the control blocks on the compressors. Further, there is significance to placing a control block including the claimed monitoring

and communication features on the compressor, as the prior art fails to teach such an arrangement. Thus, Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

With regard to Culp, III et al., Applicants note at the outset that it fails to teach or suggest network communication. Rather, the terminal box assemblies of Culp, III et al., are not analogous to the claimed control block because they do not provide communication or coordinated control by a controller. Thus, regardless of the mounting arrangement of the terminal box assembly, the Culp, III et al. disclosure fails to provide a basis for the combination and particularly lacks teaching or suggesting applicability to a network of compressors where stored compressor configuration information or a pluggable gateway board would be advantageous, let alone a system master in combination with a control block for configuration, monitoring and control features.

The same analysis applies to Suzuki, which the Examiner argues in the alternate, in combination with Centers et al., and Applicants' "admitted prior art" as rendering Applicants' invention obvious. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Suzuki is even farther removed from Culp, III et al., because not only does it not teach a detachable and pluggable interface, nor network communication, it does not disclose a compressor, rather disclosing a fan control circuit. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejects Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Centers et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,471,486) as modified by Culp, III et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,975,854), as applied to Claim 31, and further in view of Friedland (U.S. Pat. No.

5,423,190) and Sunaga et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,661). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the reasons explained above with respect to Centers et al. and Culp, III et al., as applied to the claims from which Claim 24 depends, the prior art fails to teach Applicants' claimed invention. The addition of Friedland and Sunaga et al. fails to cure this deficiency. Friedland, for example, teaches a barcode on a serial plate affixed to each unit. Certain information is associated with the barcode based on the model number and/or production serial number. This information is accessed via a lookup table. Such information includes type and amount of refrigerant required. Friedland, however, does not teach or suggest a compressor assembly with a control block mounted on the shell, including a detachable or pluggable gateway board, and operable to store compressor configuration information. In fact, Friedland does not disclose integration with a compressor assembly. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Sunaga et al. discloses the concept of mixing oil with refrigerant, as the Examiner has referenced by Tables 4 and 5 of Sunaga et al. Sunaga et al., however, does not teach applying a code and storing such code in a control block mounted on a shell of a compressor, where the control block includes a pluggable gateway board. In fact, Sunaga et al. does not disclose storing or communicating that information in any way, nor applicability to a compressor assembly such as claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

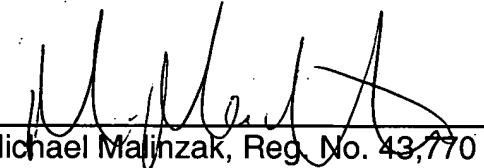
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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